

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12, 15 and 16 are previously pending in the above-identified allowed patent application. In accordance with the Request for Continued Examination filed in conjunction with this Amendment After Allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests that new Claims 17-39 be added to the application and examined. The Applicant believes there is no new matter added by the new claims. More specifically, Claims 17-39 find support in Figs. 2, 3 and 5 and paragraphs 27 and 28 of the published application. Applicant also asserts there exists additional support for the amendments in the specification and interpretation of the claims should not be limited strictly to the Figures.

Furthermore, the new claims have been reviewed in light of the most relevant cited prior art, namely, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032926 to Lewis, U.S. Patent No. 5,350,266 to Espey et al., U.S. Patent No. 1,330,909 to Sharp, U.S. Patent No. 4,359,790 to Chalberg, and U.S. Patent No. 843,968 to Sharp. It is believed that the new claims that depend on allowable Claim 12 are in a condition for allowance. Similarly, newly asserted independent claims 20 and 26 are believed patentable over the prior art because aspects of the invention related to "a nut having an outer periphery with a series of radially extending lugs that frictionally detachably engage an inner surface of a flange on a cap that fits over the nut, wherein the cap is selectively positioned on the nut to direct an overflow of water into the pipe" have been included. As the Examiner will note, this aspect was added to allowed Claim 12 to distinguish it over Lewis and Espey. It is believed that the incorporation of this aspect into the newly presented independent claims thus makes them allowable since Lewis fails to disclose a cap and Espey fails to disclose a cap that can be selectively positioned on the nut that directs the overflow of water to the overflow pipe.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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